## ITS USEFULNESS EXTENDED

for the Future.

Improvements Made Possible by I Liberal Appropriation-A Partial Reorganization of the Scientific Divisions-A New Building Needed.

The appropriation made for the Agricultural Department for the year 1901-1902 Is the largest yet recorded in the history of that institution. It provides for future extension of the work of the Department In various lines, and inaugurates a scheme for the partial reorganization of the scientific branches of its work. Three of the Divisions have been raised to the grade of Bureaus, and a number of other Divisions have been amalgamated in one large Bureau of Plant Industry, corresng in a general manner to the Bureau of Animal Industry.

Few people, perhaps, other than those throughout this country who have been brought into contact with the Agricultural Department, realize the splendid work which is being accomplished by the institution on behalf of the farmer and stock raiser. Starting first as a kind of accessory to the Parent Office for the distriof seeds, the Department was formally organized in 1862 in an independent scope, and placed in charge of a Com-missioner, and in 1889 was raised to the position of an Executive Department. At out this time the Hatch act was passed providing for agricultural experiment stations, thereby enlarging the field of use-

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this bureau, aside from increased and additional salaries, are: \$80,000 for investigations in vegetable pathology and physical salaries, are the salaries ology; \$20,000 for pomological investigations in vegetable pathology and physical salaries are the salaries and salaries are the salaries are

tions; \$45,000 for botanical investigations and experiments; \$30,000 for grass and forage plant investigations; \$20,000 for seed and plant introduction; \$7,000 for tea cul-The Agricultural Department Plans ture experiments (an increase of \$2,000 from last year), and \$20,000 for gardens and gounds. The total appropriation for the Burcau of Plant Industry represents an increase of \$61,900 over the combined apincrease of \$61,000 over the combined appropriations for the previous year for the divisions associated in that bureau. A novel feature of the botanical investigations is the study of useful plants of the trapical territory of the United States, together with the plants likely to be of value for introduction into that section of the country. Moreover, investigations are to be instituted on "the varieties of wheat and other cereals grown in the United States and suitable for introduction, in order to standardize the naming of varieties as a basis for experimental work of the State Experiment stations, and as an assistance in commercial grading. In cooperation with the Bureau of Chemistry, also, the reason of deterioration of expert grain, particularly in regard to the effects of the ocean voyage, is to be investigated, together with a consideration of remedial measures. In the bill for appropriations, special mention is made, in relation to this Bureau, of the employment of scientific aids, a class of employes to be selected from among pupils of agricultural colleges.

The Bureau of Forestry has received

ed from among pupils of agricultural colleares.

The Bureau of Forestry has received
\$185,440, an increase of \$195,440 over the
previous year. The appropriation for the
flureau of Soils amounts to \$19,140, an increase of \$77,840. This large amount is to
be devoted, to a considerable extent, to
an extension of the tobacco investigations, which remain in charge of this bureau, and the investigation and mapping
of soils in the entire country. The Bureau of Chemistry receives \$25,800, and is
charged with an additional duty in the
form of an investigation of food preservatives and coloring matters to determine their relation to digestion and to
health and to establish the principles
which should guide their use.

An increased appropriation for general
maintenance has been given the Weather
Bureau, and, in a stion, \$46,060 for the
erection and equipment of isulidings in

## THE OLD OCTAGON HOUSE

Changes Since Its Occupation by the Architects' Institute.

Efforts Made to Restore the Interior to Its Original Elegance-How the Rooms of the Mansion Were Fur. nished in the Days of Long Ago.

The revival of Colonial architecture began several years age, and has already met with favor in many sections of the country. It is only quite lately, however, that architects, not merely of local but national prominence, have begun to real-ize that there is in Washington, perhaps, the best example to be found anywhere of a genuine Colonial city mansion. This is the old Octagon House, on the corner of Eighteenth Street and New York Aveaue, formerly in possession of the Taylor family. Like Vignola's famous octagonal place at Caprarola, this house is one of these ingenious architectural works which engage the study and attention of all true artists. Since its occupation as the headquarters of the American Institute tice from the most prominent members of the profession throughout the country on account of the excellence of its plan, which combines comfort and convenience

with elegance of arrangement. The Taylor, or Octagon, house, as every Washingtonian doubtless knows, was built in 1800, by Colonel Taylor. The architect was Dr. William Thornton, and the pe-culiarity of his design iny in the unique shape he gave to the house in order to

wais were tinted a dericate bill, and it is said that the principal furniture was a set of ash of sixteen pleces, comprising a dezen chairs and a settee, with flowered chintz cushions in the seats, and three card tables. This furniture had small panels painted with lyres and roses. Two

large mirrors, which hing between the windows over the tables, had the same design at the tops of their frames, paint-ed on paper under gluss.) There was also in this room a centre table and an upholstered coach, but not one lounging

The dining room walls are said to have been tinted a soft grey-green. This room facen west, so as to receive, at the usual dining hour, except on those short winter evenings when artificial light is necessary, the full glow of the setting sun. The old dining table, which is still in the possession of the Taylor family, is a beautiful place of furniture. A supplementary table always stood in the back half, ready to be placed beside the other in the event of a large number of guests being invited to dino. A large recess in the dining room wall held the sideboard, and opposite, between the windows, were two high buffets, with curious old circular concave mirrors, with candles on either side, hanging over them, and a large easy chair, suggestive of the after-dinner map.

Above the front hall, or vestibule, is a circular room, which was called the round parlor, where, it is said, the family usually sai. This room had divans fitted into the spaces between the windows, and a curious old table, upon which the Treaty of Ghent was signed.

The upper apariments are of moderate dimensions, but have large closets and The dining room walls are said to hav

curious cid table, upon which the Treaty of Ghent was signed.

The upper apartments are of moderate dimensions, but have large closets and dressing rooms attached. Mrs. Tayloe's chamber was above the drawing room, and each article of furniture had its appointed place, that was never changed. It is said that, while her daughters rooms were furnished according to the changing fashions, the mistress of the house preserved, to the end of her life, the elegant simplicity that characterized the Colonial style. In her room was the old eighteenth century four-poster bed.

The house is abundantly provided with closets, and, in the dining room and vestibule, are secret doors forming a communication between the former apartment and the front door through a closet.

A great deal of the old furniture of the house is still in the possession of members of the Tayloe family, but most of the pictures and hrica-brac that formerly adorned the mansion is to be seen in the Tayloe room in the Corocran Art Gallery, having been bequeathed to that institution by Mrs. Renjamin Ogle Tayloe, it is believed by architects that the house, in its present semi-public character, will have no little influence in forming public hards.

in the throwing off of its rays there does not appear to be any waste of the mineral. Since the discovery there has been a large number of visitors to the mine, and in-terest in the outcome is being watched by all in the vicinity of where the deposit was uncovered."

Roots and Herbs Highly Valued by the Old Philippine Friars.

Ancient Volumes Which Contain Instructions for Those Afflicted With Various Ills-Evil Warded off by a Plant-Laugh Provoking Seeds.

The knowledge of the medicinal properies of herbs and plant possessed by the oppear from a work, published by the orgustinian friars in four immense volumes, on the subject of the flora c' the islands, to have been wonderful. A copy of this work can with difficulty to pro cured. That part of the fourth "The Declaration of the Virtue of the Trees and Plants, Which are in This Land," by the priest, Ignasio de Mercado, Filipino, with scientific classification by Friar Fernandez Villar, is especially interesting.

The language employed by the writer is as quaint as his statements are re-

markable. "For an unfortunate tree," says the author, "we hold the Calumpang; after having received benefits from its branches and leaves, men despise it. I say this because if the sun is hot they use the shade of the Calumpang, if it rains they do the same, if they are hungry beneath it they eat, and the recompense that it inds from the passersby is that all hack its trunk, as if it were a crime to have comforted with its branches the thankless ones who come to use them when ex-hausted by hunger or weariness or because the skies are threatening or too in-

The writer speaks in a like strain of the Pittosporum: "There are some things which have a bad face and good works, and others the contrary. And also there are others which are throughout good or bad. This Mamalis is beautiful, inasmuch as it puts out its branches each one like a paim. Now, we do not know whether it is beautiful in its properties; that depends on how one wishes to use it, because the bark of the root which looks toward the east makes a good plaster for stomach

Here follows a singular passage relating to the root of the Smilax China, "which God created here, and which, plucked when the moon is on the increase, is an even better remedy for pains, tumors, etc., than the celebrated Palo de China, which causes the bones to decay. Let them that do not believe this take from the sepuichre one who has been cured by the Palo de China and they shall see all his bones decayed,

CURIOUS MEDICAL ADVICE given, and as the sugar receives into THE WRONGS OF THE MAYAS

given, and as the sugar receives into itself the coldness of the water because of the spengy substance, the coldness of the latter is more felt with it than when taken alone, by the consistency of the body of the sugar itself.

"With the powdered leaves of Artocarpus integrifolius penitents are cured of pimples and spasms."

A story is told of a carpenter who cut his toe with a hatchet so that it merely hung by the skin, but on his applying the bark of the root of Ficus altimaloo, he returned to his work the next day with his toe completely healed.

Kalanchee is another great healer, and, according to the priest, "if the head of a chicken be cut its whole length with a sharp kuife which has been rubbed with the juice of this herb, and afterward both parts of the wound be again anointed with the same juice, within a Credo the fowl will become as well as ever."

### FACTS CONCERNING BIRDS.

Some That Cannot Fly and Others Without the Gift of Song.

(From the New York Sun.)

Birds without wings are found in New Zealand and Australia. Kiwl is the name of one species. Beautiful mats are made of the feathers of the white variety, but it takes ten years and more to collect enough feathers to make even a small mat, which would sell for about \$150.

Birds without song belong to Hawaii, In Honolulu one sees a bird about the size of the robin, an independent sort of fellow, that walks about like a chieken, instead of hopping like a well trained bird of the United States, and it has no song. A bird that walks and awims, but does not liy, is the penguin. No nests are made by penguins, but the one egg laid at a time by the mother is carried about under her abourd little wing or under her leg.

The largest of flight birds is the Call. (From the New York Sun.)

leg.
The largest of flight birds is the Cali-

leg.

The largest of flight birds is the California vuiture or condor, measuring from tip to tip nine and a half to ten feet, and exceeding considerbly in size the true condor of South America. The birds iay but one egg each season—large, oval, ashy green in color, and deeply pitted, so distinctive in appearance that it cannot be confounded with any other.

The California condor is rapidly approaching extinction, and museums all over the world are eager to secure living specimens. It is believed that there is only one in captivity.

Another large bird is the rhinoceros bird, which is about the size of a turkey. One recently shot on the Island of Java had in its crop a rim from a small telescope and three brass buttons, evidently belonging to a British soldier's uniform.

A bird which is switter than a horse is the road runner of the southwest. Its aliases are the ground cuckoo, the lizard bird, and the snake killer, snakes being a favorite diet. In northern Mexico, western Texas, and southern Colorado, and California it is found. The bird measures about two feet from tip to tip, and is a dull brown in color. Its two less are only about ten inches lorg, but neither horses with their four legs, nor hounds, nor electric pacing machines are in it for swiftness when it comes to running.

Most curious are the sewing failor birds of India—little yellow things not much larger than one's thumb. To escape failing a prey to snakes and monkeys, the tailor bird picks up a dead leaf and files up into a high tree, and with a fibre for a thread and its bill for a needle sews the leaf onto a green one hanging from the tree, the sides are sewed up, an account when the condensation and the tree, the sides are sewed up, an account when the condensation and the text that the results and the condensation of the tree that the results and with a fibre for a thread and the text that the condensation and the condensation and the tree that the condensation and the condensation and the condensation and the condensation and the condensatio

(garile) will break a bottle by blowing upon it immediately afterward."

The following hints are among the most curious in the book: "Cane sugar given in cold water is more refreshing to one when has fever than water alone. The reason for the water appearing more refreshing with it is that since it is so tempered it converts itself immediately into the nature of him to whom it is converted to the death or surrender. Papers light to the death or sur

A Threatened Uprising of the Race in Yucatan.

Prowess of a Once Powerful Band of Indians in Mexico-Losing Ground in a Long Struggle for Independence-A Last Stand for Freedom.

According to recent reports Yucatan has en threatened with another uprising of Indians, owing to the active measures now being taken by the Mexican Government for the purpose of bringing the in-dependent natives to acknowledge its au-

In olden times the peninsula of Yucatan was the home of a great nation whose ruined cities are today admired by all who see them. Nations, though longer lived than individuals, are similar in their growth, maturity, and decay. The Maya nation reached its zenith, held an impor-tant place for centuries, and declined; it had ceased to be great long before the arrival of the Spanish invaders, but the natives, being of heroic mold, resisted the white man's firearms during a quarter of a century, they themselves possessing none; and the people of pure Maya stock were vanquished only when the many allens inhabiting the peninsula had be-

come allies of the Europeans. Centuries of slavery under Spain, and pppression after they were granted the title of free Mexican citizens, failed to stifle the spirit that had made the Mayas a power in ages gone by. Their first up-rising in the nineteenth century was in 1848, and after two years of fighting a few thousand declared them-selves independent, and built their city, Chan-Santa-Cruz (Little Holy Cross), in he southeastern part of the peninsula. Ever since that time there has been more or less war between these and the other inhabitants of the land, until about ten years ago, when the Indians ceased to trouble the Mexican settlements. These, meanwhile, have been enjoying an era of prosperity, due to the cultivation of hemp, and a spirit of enterprise having taken ssion of wealthy landowners, it was decided to build a railroad across the reniceula, through the territory held by the Indians. Therefore, in order to force there to recognize the Mexican Govern-ment and keep the peace, a few thousand federals, commanded by General Bravo, started out some time ago. It was shortsighted policy which dictated this step; the writer has had abundant opportunity study the Mayas, and is convinced that friendly advances on the part of the auhorities would have brought about satisfactory results.

decysel.

Saffron, it is stated, has such power that blaced in the hand it pencitates instantly to the heart. "A little bag of it put on the stomach," says the priest, "keeps one from breakfasting, and it is certain that if given to drink in quantity it despations, who dies at one and laughing, that it is certain that if given to drink in quantity it despations, who dies at one and laughing, that it is certain that if given to drink in quantity it despations, who dies at one and laughing, that it is certain that if given to drink in quantity it despations, who dies at one and laughing, the patient, who dies at one and laughing, and answering, but all unconscious for a lionet time, laughing, weeping, sleeping, speaking, and answering, but all unconscious for a lionet time, laughing, weeping, sleeping, speaking, and answering, but all unconscious for a lionet time, laughing, weeping, sleeping, speaking, and answering, but all unconscious for a lionet time, laughing, weeping, sleeping, speaking, and answering, but all unconscious for a lionet time, laughing, weeping, sleeping, speaking, and answering, but all unconscious for a lionet time, laughing, weeping, sleeping, speaking, and answering, but all unconscious for a lionet time, laughing, weeping, sleeping, speaking, and answering, but all unconscious for a lionet time, laughing, weeping, sleeping, speaking, and answering, but all unconscious for a lionet time, laughing, weeping, sleeping, speaking, and answering, but all unconscious for a lionet time, laughing, weeping, sleeping, speaking, and answering, but all unconscious for a lionet time, laughing in the search of the laught of the part of the laught of the laugh

# OLD JOE'S VI'LET.

picking the first violet of the year when the small "come by chance" announced herself as a chimasa for the lost daugh-ter's vacant place, they had named her Wilet, and taken to her very kindly. All

which had comforted his loneliness a which had comforted his loneliness a thousand times, made his soul rise up in anguish and rebellion. Had he lived so honestly and worked so hard to come only to this? Why not have tithed at least a part of his master's belongings, which had passed so constantly through his hands, and so known better times? He'd known many less marticular than him.

might trust the assurances of this stranger. "You'll do it kind?" he queried so anx-lously, thankful to see that Vi'let purrent to him as though he inspired confidences for as a rule she fuffed at new acquaint-ances and declined to know them.

"Till do it kind? I promise faithfully."
"I humbly thankful to see that Vi'let, she'll be more tract'ble."
"I humbly thankful to see that Vi'let, she'll be more tract'ble."
Not daring to look again at his fold friend, loe hurried off as fast as his withered legs would carry him, sobbling as he went. Vi'let struggled to follow him, but was prevented, and, like her poor old master, she had to yield to the inevitable. The fisherman waited until Joe hud passed out of sight and hearing, and then with one whirl of his strong young arm he threw the ferret bag and stones right into the deep of the river. But Vi'let was still safety in his arms, and he looked at his captive smillingly as he gathered up his fishing tackle and hurried off to the wand of the walls of place him in a low, captive smillingly as he gathered up his fishing tackle and hurried off to the wand of the wall of the coat and the cheerfulness of being now. With the vanished Joe, but she was quite without fear for her own personal safety. His touch was kind and gentle, and he called her Vi'let.

Young did it kind, sir?" he queried; but was meant as an assurance that he had to had not not be find to her anxious guardians, became manual as a nuite mate an declined; but had no hear to see that he had to had no hear to exceed for his had no not will be was meant as an assurance that he had to had not be feat to him as though the hear to see that he had to had no hear to see that he had no not he feat to be a more not some manual as a scall state. The mere thought of the side of the first the structure of the had no was a first at the botton promote that he had to like the had no was a first at the botton promote that the same same assurance that he had the part of the same manual as a mere part of the time the range o